

UPDATE ON THE ELAN SCHOOL APPROVAL AND ABUSE ALLEGATIONS AUGUST 6, 2002

GENERAL INFORMATION

A meeting was held on August 5, 2002, at the DOE with the School Approval Review Team and the Elan School administrative team. The purpose of the meeting was to review a draft of the Elan School policy regarding the use of the plastic wrist and ankle protective devices and to review the progress of the abuse allegations.

SCHOOL APPROVAL

1. Instructional Time- the instructional day at the Elan School exceeds the five (5) hour minimal requirement of Chapter 125. The students at the Elan School receive six (6) hours of instruction Monday through Friday.
2. Protective Devices- the Elan School administrative team presented a draft of the amended policy pertaining to the use of wrist and ankle protective devices. The DOE staff attending the meeting recommended the following revisions to the draft policy:
 - a. Indicate that the use of the protective devices is limited to emergency situations only and that it is not part of regular programming at the Elan School;
 - b. State that other safety interventions have been and continue to be explored. To date, the administrative team has determined that these methods and procedures are not suitable due to therapeutic reasons;
 - c. During the next six (6) months, when the wrist and ankle protective devices are used, the Elan School should contact Edwin N. Kastuck, DOE Special, Prevention Early Education and Elementary and Secondary Education, to report the incident(s) and describe the situation(s) that led to the use of the protective devices.
 - d. The Elan School administrative team will revise the draft presented on 8/5 on or before 8/9.

ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

1. RoseMary Muir reported that she is still receiving calls from Nova Scotia regarding abuse allegations from former students of the Elan School.
2. RoseMary Muir is going to follow up on the allegations by collecting specific information i.e. names, dates, events etc., from the students. Her plan is to travel to Canada to meet with the complainants by August 16, 2002 or contact them by phone in the event that travel or a face to face meeting is not possible. Following the collection of the data, RoseMary plans to return to the Elan School to review incident logs in terms of the data she collects from the complainants.

REVIEW TEAM CONCLUSIONS

1. The Elan School meets and/or exceeds the basic school approval requirements.
2. The use of the plastic wrist and ankle protective devices in emergency situations is consistent with the Maine statutes and regulations.
3. Since the Elan School meets or exceeds basic school approval requirements, the issuance of a certificate of approval should proceed independent of the abuse allegation investigation. This would be consistent with DOE practices with public and other approved private schools whereby the abuse allegations investigation focuses on the individuals who allegedly committed the abuse and not on a review of the institution's basic school approval.